

Koreatown Youth and Community Center (KYCC) – Appendix D, Work Plan

I. Project Title and Project Purpose Statement

Project Title

South Los Angeles Forestry Project

Summary Description of the Proposed Project

The South Los Angeles Forestry Project will engage low-income residents living in South Los Angeles to empower and educate them by learning about the health and economic benefits of a healthy urban forest in their community. Koreatown Youth and Community Center (KYCC), along with resident and community participation, will plant at least 200 street trees in the disadvantaged community of South Los Angeles. The project aims to educate disproportionately impacted communities while increasing community climate resiliency, encouraging environmental stewardship, and building capacity to create sustainable and healthy environmental change.

Location of Where the Project Will Take Place

The project will serve the disadvantaged community of South Los Angeles, located within the City of Los Angeles, California. More specifically, the project area is bounded by Washington Boulevard to the north, Arlington Boulevard to the west, Slauson Avenue to the south, and the 110 Freeway to the east. Twenty-eight (28) of the thirty-five (35) census tracts within this area are Disadvantaged Communities according to CalEnviroScreen 2.0. The total population of these 28 tracts is 121,861.

CalEnviroScreen 2.0 was released in 2014 by the California Environmental Protection Agency. It has become the standard throughout the state of California to determine the priority communities for environmental enhancement. The scale ranges from 1-100, with 100 being the highest level of poor environmental conditions and low income levels. The neighborhoods we focus our tree planting efforts on (including South Los Angeles) have scores from 65-95. In comparison, more affluent neighborhoods like Beverly Hills, Pasadena, and the coastal towns from Santa Monica to Palos Verdes have scores from 10-35.

Identify the Related Environmental Statute(s) from the List in Section I.C.

Overall, the project will empower and educate South Los Angeles residents of the importance of trees in an urban setting and increase the size and canopy coverage of the urban forest in South Los Angeles. Increasing the urban forest in South Los Angeles as well as empowering and educating the low-income residents of South Los Angeles – all of this will directly benefit the following environmental statutes:

- Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3)
- Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3)
- Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 203

Identify the Project's Community Climate Resiliency Focus

The proposed project will increase the community climate resiliency of South Los Angeles through the increased tree canopy and planting of drought tolerant trees adapted to the future climate of Los Angeles. As California hopes to break a three-year drought, the disadvantaged urban community of South Los Angeles is getting a taste of how climate change may impact its future. The heat island effect resembles conditions of a dryer, hotter Los Angeles as it concentrates the hot, dry air into the urban residential neighborhoods of the Los Angeles Basin by warming the grey infrastructure during the day and having it radiate through the evening, raising average daily temperatures and increasing air-conditioning use for those who can afford it.

In 2008, the United States Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station performed a tree cover canopy analysis of the City of Los Angeles. In the study, it was determined the average tree canopy cover percentage for the City overall is 21%, with the potential to raise the figure to 28%. However, the underserved community of South Los Angeles has a tree canopy cover percentage of 8-12%, far below city average and even further behind the ideal. To increase the viability of our project, KYCC will plant trees known to use low-water and that are tolerant of hotter temperatures. With older trees declining throughout the community that are not acclimated to climate change, we will plant trees that will be. So the increase in canopy proposed by this project will absorb more of the sun's heat, shade streets and homes, and provide trees resilient to future warmer temperatures and dry climate.

Identify the Project's Linkage to EPA 2014-2018 Strategic Plan and Cross-Agency Strategies

The proposed project supports EPA's Strategic Plan Goal 3: "Cleaning Up Communities and Advancing Sustainable Development" and EPA's Cross-Agency Strategy, "Working to Make a Visible Difference in Communities." More specifically, the planting of 200 trees in South Los Angeles with the participation and education of its community members will "promote sustainable and livable communities," one of the objectives of Goal 3. As more fully discussed below, a full canopy throughout South Los Angeles will "improve the environment, human health, and quality of life for their residents," "help them adapt to a changing climate," and "improve access to...amenities." And as a predominantly minority and low-income area, a full canopy will bring environmental, health and economic benefits to the disadvantaged neighborhoods of South Los Angeles. Moreover, the South Los Angeles Forestry Project utilizes "community-based strategies" as emphasized under EPA's Cross-Agency Strategy, "Working to Make a Visible Difference in Communities." By working directly with minority and low-income community members of South Los Angeles, the planting of 200 trees will empower and educate underserved, overburdened communities and make a visible difference in South Los Angeles.

II. Environmental, Public Health and Community Climate Resiliency (if applicable) information about the Affected Community

The proposed project will take place in the highly underserved neighborhoods of South Los Angeles. In 2009, the Los Angeles Times completed an extensive project mapping all of the various neighborhoods of South Los Angeles. Through this mapping project the demographic information was compiled for South Los Angeles:

- 56% Latino and 38% African American
- Only 8.2% of residents 25 and older have a four-year college degree

- Median Household Incomes between \$29,000 - \$35,000
- 42% of South Los Angeles residents live below the federal poverty level, compared to only 12% in West Los Angeles, and the numbers correspond with the rate of diabetes in each area.
- 33% of children in South Los Angeles are overweight
- One in seven residents has diabetes in South Los Angeles, compared to one in 12 in West Los Angeles

The inequalities present throughout South Los Angeles extend beyond the economic and social issues but also into the environmental. In 2014, the California Environmental Protection Agency developed CalEnviroScreen 2.0. This public, web-based tool identifies the most underserved communities in California down to the census tract level, based on various environmental conditions and household economic data. It has become the standard throughout the state of California to determine the priority communities for environmental enhancement. The scale ranges from 1-100, with 100 being the highest level of poor environmental conditions and low income levels. The neighborhoods we focus our tree planting efforts on (including South Los Angeles) have scores from 65-95. In comparison, more affluent neighborhoods like Beverly Hills, Pasadena, and the coastal towns from Santa Monica to Palos Verdes have scores from 10-35.

Overall, the affected community in South Los Angeles is disproportionately impacted by the detrimental environmental effects of low-canopy residential neighborhoods. These effects include:

- greater impact of the heat island effect
- worse air quality
- less permeable surface and retention of rain water
- polluted run off into storm drains
- a less safe environment and auto-centric streets for the residents
- lack of interest in growing the canopy and poor care for existing trees
- high loss rate of older trees

The South Los Angeles community will benefit from the results of an increased tree canopy through:

- absorbing the sun's energy and increasing shade on the built infrastructure
- capturing particulate matter and sequestering carbon
- increasing the permeability of the ground and capturing and absorbing precipitation; reducing polluted run-off to the ocean
- decreasing speeds and creating a natural barrier between autos and pedestrians; increasing pedestrian safety
- greater appreciation and stewardship of local trees
- healthier canopy that will be better adapted to climate change

III. Organization's Historical Connection to the Affected Community

In 1992, Los Angeles was rocked by what has come to be known as the Los Angeles Riots. Sparked by the acquittal of the Los Angeles Police Department officers involved in the beating

of Rodney King, some residents of South Los Angeles expressed their anger by looting and permanently damaging hundreds of commercial businesses, including many convenience stores owned by Korean immigrants. In the aftermath of the Los Angeles Riots, KYCC launched programs to support the rebuilding of affected businesses in South Los Angeles in cooperation with local residents. More specifically, KYCC created the Alliance for Neighborhood Economic Development Unit (which has now become the Community Economic Development Unit) to provide business counseling and assistance training for the “mom and pop” small business owners in Koreatown and South Los Angeles.

At the same time, the City of Los Angeles recognized that the barren, low-canopy neighborhoods of South Los Angeles lent to the impression that the city did not care about the environmental quality of these communities. KYCC was invited to plant trees in the affected areas, and this led to the creation of KYCC’s Environmental Services Unit, which started providing tree planting services as well as water conservation programs. For over twenty years, KYCC has been planting trees in some of the most economically disadvantaged communities in Los Angeles with a focus on Koreatown and adjacent South Los Angeles.

For KYCC’s residential tree planting, the residents of the affected communities get to decide whether each residential street tree can be planted. Where a dominant tree is not obvious, there can be discretion in the type of tree planted. In addition the residents are asked to support the care and maintenance of the planted tree. If funded, South Los Angeles Forestry Project will allow us to spend more time engaging the residents of South Los Angeles in learning about the benefits and stewardship of the trees and listening to their concerns and aspirations for the trees in their neighborhoods. Additionally, KYCC’s efforts have increased the environmental health of the South Los Angeles community by planting thousands of trees over the last 20 years. Every additional house that is shaded by a tree directly improves their climate resiliency and the increased tree canopy improves the community’s overall health.

KYCC maintains and sustains our ongoing relationship with the residents of South Los Angeles by speaking directly with the residents. Every tree we plant is the result of a conversation with a South Los Angeles homeowner. In addition, we participate in South Los Angeles community meetings, attend community events, work with local associations to maintain several forestry projects and are involved in the Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas’ Empowerment Congress. The Empowerment Congress, a distinctive and deliberate national model of civic engagement built on the core principles of participatory democracy, reciprocal accountability, and intentional civility, is a dynamic partnership among neighborhood groups, residents, nonprofit organizations, businesses, religious institutions, and community leaders within the diverse communities of Los Angeles County’s Second Supervisorial District, which includes all of South Los Angeles.

Finally, project manager Ryan Allen was appointed by the Mayor’s office to represent Los Angeles City Council District 10, which covers a large portion of the project area, on the Community Forestry Advisory Committee (CFAC). As a member of CFAC Mr. Allen serves to better the urban forestry standards of the city of Los Angeles, and help preserve the trees of local communities.

IV. Project Description

i) A Concise Description of the Activities of the Project

The South Los Angeles Forestry Project will empower and educate residents to address the environmental concerns of their neighborhood. Creating and collecting educational materials regarding benefits of trees, building relationships, attending meetings and learning from residents will be the primary strategies funded through this grant. KYCC's goal will be to plant a minimum of 200 street trees as a direct result of these strategies. The resulting tree canopy will increase the multiple benefits provided by a healthy urban forest.

To measure the impact on the local community of planting 200 trees, KYCC conducted a calculation of the amount of carbon dioxide that can be stored in the trees and avoided from being created through planting 200 medium size (30'-50') trees in residential neighborhoods of South Los Angeles. Using the tree carbon calculator developed by the United States Forest Service and The Center for Urban Forest Research, we determined that planting 200 trees will result in 327 metric tons of carbon dioxide being removed from the local air and another 670 metric tons avoided from generation over 40 years.

Currently, KYCC staff canvasses door-to-door to ask South Los Angeles residents if they would like a tree. This method is somewhat effective in getting trees planted, but it does little to address the larger educational need of the community nor does it create streets with dense canopies. In our efforts to better understand our canvassing program, we began keeping track of our statistics. In one month, we knocked on 625 doors, which resulted in 144 trees to be planted. Of the 625 homes we visited, we talked too 183 residents. Among the residents with whom we spoke, 35% of those residents did not want a tree for reasons varying from not wanting to water the tree to thinking the roots would buckle the sidewalks. With a 30% chance that a person will be home, and a third not wanting a tree, it is difficult to get multiple homes on a block committed to getting trees planted. This leads to sparsely planted streets that do not provide the benefits of a dense, connected canopy cover and do not have the same aesthetic impact.

Our strategy for increasing the canopy will be to dedicate a Community Engagement Specialist to working with South Los Angeles community leaders, partner organizations, and local government offices. By starting new relationships and building on current partnerships, KYCC will be able to reach deeper into the South Los Angeles community by joining those already well connected. With our local partners we will work together to recruit South Los Angeles community members to workshops on the benefits of trees and how to plant and care for trees. These workshops will be centered on getting large numbers of residents from one street block to attend, so a dense canopy can be achieved. Some of these workshops will lead to a community tree planting event, where the residents will be led by KYCC staff in planting the new trees in the South Los Angeles community. These events will serve to foster a sense of pride amongst community members, and further the connection they have between themselves and the newly planted trees.

The components of the South Los Angeles Forestry Project will be as follows:

Months 1-3

- Identify a Community Engagement Specialist
- Attend South Los Angeles community meetings, meet with leaders and stakeholders
- Complete discovery of community resistance to street and yard trees

Months 4-6

- Research, design, and develop street tree education materials addressing the benefits and resistance to street trees
- Present opportunity to plant street trees at existing community meetings and events
- Touch base with community and resident groups to plant trees upon request and as solicited
- Hold three workshops for community on the benefits of trees educating 50 community members.
- Plan four community planting events
- Train 10 volunteer leaders on assisting with the planting events and subsequent maintenance

Months 7-12

- Continue outreach to South Los Angeles community
- Hold four community planting events at which at least 20 trees are planted, and attended by 100 volunteers
- Plant trees as requested by individuals and groups reached through the program
- Plant a total of 200 trees as a direct result of our community outreach

KYCC will work with CityPlants to receive in-kind support and will use our existing relationships with advocacy organizations in South Los Angeles to help us identify and connect with key stakeholders. All of the work described above will be the responsibility of KYCC. Please note that CityPlants (formerly Million Trees Los Angeles) is the City of Los Angeles' tree planting program funded by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

Through education and planting events, we will increase the South Los Angeles community's understanding and engagement with the trees and the natural environment. Through their involvement with increasing the tree canopy in their neighborhood, the community will build their capacity to address the local environmental, public health and resilience to climate change. KYCC's urban forestry efforts in South Los Angeles are over 20 years old, and we will continue to work with this community so that together we address the inequity in canopy cover of South Los Angeles. Overall, the project will empower and educate South Los Angeles residents of the importance of trees in an urban setting and increase the size and canopy coverage of the urban forest in South Los Angeles.

Increasing the urban forest in South Los Angeles and empowering and educating the low-income residents of South Los Angeles relate to the environmental statutes identified in our threshold eligibility form - and in Section I above - as follows:

- Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3): The proposed project is related to the Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3) because it proposes to plant at least 200 street trees in South Los

Angeles, which is a canopy poor and economically disadvantaged area of Los Angeles, California. Planting of the trees will reduce and prevent water pollution by reducing the amount of storm water runoff. This happens by capturing rain water in the trees' canopy, allowing it to slowly infiltrate into the soil to become groundwater and preventing pollution from being carried into the storm drains, Los Angeles River, and eventually into the Pacific Ocean. Additionally, the Los Angeles River, which is adjacent to South Los Angeles, is protected in the Clean Water Act as a navigable river, and the infiltration of cleaner groundwater will reduce and prevent water pollution with regard to the river, as well.

- Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3): The proposed project is related to the Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3) because it proposes to plant at least 200 street trees in South Los Angeles, thereby preventing and controlling the degree of air pollution in the area. Studies have shown that trees capture particulate matter in the air and sequester carbon from entering the atmosphere. Trees also provide shade, which reduces the need for energy generation to power air conditioners.
- Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 203: The proposed project is related to the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act because it proposes to plant at least 200 street trees in South Los Angeles, which minimizes the ocean dumping of hazardous materials. Trees reduce polluted water going into storm drains and ultimately ending up in the Pacific Ocean.

ii) A Concise Description of How the Organization and its Partner(s) will Work Together during the Year to Address the Local Issue(s).

The main component of the South Los Angeles Forestry Project is to have a staff member committed to building lasting partnerships with local South Los Angeles residents, community-based organizations, and other who are directly linked to the South Los Angeles community. While some of the partnerships for this project are yet to be developed, KYCC has the existing relationships necessary to start implementing the proposed plan.

Since its inception in October 2001, KYCC has been a partner with the City of Los Angeles' Department of Water and Power (LADWP) tree planting program. Their planting focus is to reduce power usage through shading of structures. Reducing the heat island effect, capturing rainwater and reducing runoff, and removing particulate matter from the air are additional co-benefits. Under Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, the LADWP program was called Million Trees Los Angeles and has been rebranded under current Mayor Eric Garcetti as CityPlants. Greg Good, Director of City Services for Mayor Garcetti, has identified two geographic locations that the mayor would like to see concerted canopy increases. One is in the North-East San Gabriel Valley and the other is in South Los Angeles, the proposed project area. Mr. Good also spoke of the need to engage with these disadvantaged and underserved communities to ensure sustainability of the new trees. For this project, CityPlants will provide the trees free of charge to the South Los Angeles residents who pledge to keep the trees watered and maintained until established. CityPlants also provides marketing materials and support through social media.

Also, KYCC is a member of Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas' Empowerment Congress, Environmental Committee that brings together partner organizations

from all over South Los Angeles to meet the environmental needs of South Los Angeles residents. This committee will help to connect KYCC with the local community-based organizations interested in greening their community.

Finally, KYCC works closely with the Urban Forestry Division of the City of Los Angeles, which coordinates permitting and ensures quality control on every tree planted within the City of Los Angeles.

V. Organizational Capacity and Programmatic Capability

KYCC has organizational and financial systems in place to appropriately manage, expend and account for federal funds. We have software specifically designed for nonprofit fund accounting. For this grant, KYCC will create a separate fund code (set of accounts) to ensure that all revenue and expenses are accurately and appropriately allocated to the project. We have a fiscal manual that includes our cost allocation plan. We have a federally approved indirect cost rate from the Department of the Treasury. We have multiple audits each year from federal, state and local government agencies and undergo an A-133 Federal Audit in addition to our annual independent audit. For over a decade, KYCC has had no significant findings. Our Chief Financial Officer has been with us for eight years and our Executive Director for 26 years.

As evidence of our successful management of federal projects, KYCC was recently renewed for our sixth consecutive year of providing Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) services for the Department of the Treasury. We were also awarded a new grant to run a Low Income Taxpayer Clinic also by the Department of the Treasury. In addition to federal grants, KYCC has dozens of State of California, Los Angeles County and City of Los Angeles contracts each year.

In 2013-2014, KYCC completed a grant through California ReLeaf in which we worked with two local community groups in South Los Angeles and the underserved neighborhood of Westlake, just west of Downtown Los Angeles. This project consisted of holding three workshops with over 75 community members in attendance. Additionally, these workshops were followed by a community outreach event where the trained community members went into their community to talk with their neighbors about the benefits of trees and getting a free tree planted at their home. Through the efforts of the local community members, we were able to plant 70 trees at three community planting events consisting of over 150 total volunteers.

Also, KYCC completed a tree planting grant with the Los Angeles County Supervisory District 2 where we planted 250 trees in South Los Angeles. In order to plant 50 of the trees, KYCC worked directly with motivated community members of the View Park neighborhood. In partnership with them, KYCC provided materials on trees and the information needed to get neighbors enrolled for a free tree. We did not hold a community planting event, but we were able to empower community members in getting 50 trees planted in their neighborhood by providing our support and expertise.

For the VITA grants we have received over the last six years, we have successfully achieved or exceeded all stated goals and have met all our reporting requirements. Our VITA Grant Officer is

Mr. Azell Turner; his number is (404) 338-8917, and the Federal Award Identifier Number for current grant is 15VITA0211.

The funders of our tree planting programs over the last five years have included CityPlants, California ReLeaf, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, and California Department of Transportation.

VI. Qualifications of the Project Manager (PM)

Ryan Allen, KYCC's Environmental Services Manager, will be the Project Manager for the South Los Angeles Forestry Project. Mr. Allen is an ISA (International Society of Arboriculture) Certified Arborist (#WE-10316A) and worked for the last 6 years in urban forestry within the City of Los Angeles. Before working at KYCC, Mr. Allen worked as the Senior Manager of Tree Care for TreePeople where he frequently led educational workshops on trees as well as coordinating volunteer management. Each year he would coordinate 20-30 volunteer community tree planting and tree care events. He also created the "Citizen Arborist" training program while at TreePeople, a 7-week course on various tree topics, with the goal of creating a highly trained and educated force of community volunteers who could lead other community members in urban forestry activities without direct staff support. In the year he ran this program close to 100 community members completed this course. At KYCC, Mr. Allen continues to lead tree planting events and provide education opportunities to community members. Also, Mr. Allen is the Los Angeles City Council District 10 elected representative to the Los Angeles City Community Forestry Advisory Committee. This elected group of community members represents the various council districts on urban forestry issues of the city. Additionally, Mr. Allen is the California ReLeaf Network Committee Southern California Region representative, providing key insights to California ReLeaf on the advocacy issues of environmental and urban forestry organizations from Los Angeles to San Diego.

VII. Past Performance in Reporting on Outputs and Outcomes

- A list of any Federal or non-Federal grants or cooperative agreements (not Federal contracts) of similar size, scope, and relevance to the proposed project that you worked on within the past three (3) years (no more than five (5) agreements, preferably EPA agreements). Please include the grant or cooperative agreement number, title of the project, the amount of funding, funding agency or organization, and point-of-contact;

| Grant or Cooperative Agreement Number | Title of the Project | Amount of Funding | Funding Agency or Organization | Point-of-Contact |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Grant Agreement # 8CA12901 | 2012 Urban Forestry Education Grant | \$64,050 | State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) | Deborah Wong |

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|-------------------------------|---|-----------|--|---------------|
| Grant No. 58M1-14-2372 | KYCC Neighborhood Forestry Program | \$75,000 | Los Angeles County Supervisor District 2 | Martha Lopez |
| Agreement # 07-20-022 | Greening the Expo Line | \$100,000 | State of California Department of Transportation | Brenda Herron |
| Grant Agreement # 2013-EPA-08 | 2013 Urban Forestry & Education Grant Program | \$5,000 | CA ReLeaf | Chuck Mills |

The above agreements all required documentation and reporting on the goals and outcomes as stated in our funding proposals and/or funding agreements. Additionally, CalFire requires quarterly progress updates and all grantors had final site visits (with the exception of CA ReLeaf). As an agency, we understand that we are an extension of the funder and that for our partnerships to last, we need to ensure regular communication as to the progress of our work.

VIII. Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Information

We do not believe that our project will involve the use of existing environmental data or the collection of new data. We, therefore, do not believe we will need a Quality Assurance Project Plan for this project.